

**REMARKS**

Applicants thank Examiner Hicks for the telephone conference on November 9, 2006 and for his thoughtful consideration of this case. This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Final Office Action mailed September 19, 2006. To clarify various aspects of inventive subject matter and in some cases to remove unnecessary limitations, Applicants introduce new Claims 112-157 and cancel Claims 1-83 and 98-111 without prejudice or disclaimer. In order to advance prosecution of this Application, Applicants have responded to each notation by the Examiner. Applicants submit that all of the pending claims are allowable over the cited references. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

**Interview Summary**

Applicants' attorney conducted a telephonic conference with Examiner Hicks on November 9, 2006. Pursuant to M.P.E.P. §713.04, Applicants submit this summary of the telephonic interview to record Applicants' understanding of the substance of the interview. If Applicants' understanding is inaccurate, notice of such is appreciated.

During the interview, Applicants and the Examiner discussed U.S. Patent Application Publication 2004/0161078 filed by Knott ("*Knott*"), U.S. Patent Application Publication 2003/0092976 filed by Murase ("*Murase*"), and amended independent Claims 1 and 21. Applicants understand that the combination of *Knott* and *Murase* fail to teach amended independent Claims 1 and 21. Moreover, Applicants understand that a further search by the Examiner would be required. However, without conceding the veracity of the Examiner's rejections and solely for the purpose of advancing this case expeditiously to allowance, Applicants have cancelled Claims 1-83 and 98-111, and have introduced new Claims 112-157.

**Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. § 102**

The Examiner rejected Claims 37-41, 43-45, 47, 49-53, 56-60, 63-64, 66-68, 70-75, 77, 79-80, 82-83, 105-106, and 108-110 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Knott*. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons discussed below. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections for the reasons discussed below. Without addressing the veracity of the Examiner's art rejections, and solely for the purpose of

advancing this case expeditiously to issuance, Applicants cancel Claims 1-83 and 98-111 rendering this rejection moot. Applicants explicitly reserve the right to traverse some or all of these rejections in another application.

**Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. § 103**

The Examiner rejected Claims 1-2, 4-6, 8-10, 12-19, 21-22, 24-26, 28-35, 48, 54, 61, 65, 78, 98-99, 101-104, and 111 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Knott* in view of *Murase*. The Examiner also rejected Claims 3, 7, 11, 23, 27, 42, 26, 69, 76, 100, and 107 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Knott* in view of *Murase*, as above, in further view of *Feinberg*. The Examiner also rejected Claims 20, 36, 55, and 81 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Knott* in view of *Murase*, as above, in further view of *Dewan*. Without addressing the veracity of the Examiner's art rejections, and solely for the purpose of advancing this case expeditiously to issuance, Applicants cancel Claims 1-83 and 98-111 rendering this rejection moot. Applicants explicitly reserve the right to traverse some or all of these rejections in another application.

**No Waiver**

All of Applicants' arguments and amendments are without prejudice or disclaimer. Additionally, Applicants have merely discussed example distinctions from the *Knott*, *Murase*, *Feinberg*, and *Dewan* references. Other distinctions may exist, and Applicants reserve the right to discuss these additional distinctions in a later Response or on Appeal, if appropriate. By not responding to additional statements made by the Examiner, Applicants do not acquiesce to the Examiner's additional statements. The example distinctions discussed by Applicants are sufficient to overcome the anticipation and obviousness rejections.

**CONCLUSION**

Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Because this Amendment places all claims in condition for allowance or at least in a better condition for appeal, Applicants respectfully request that this Amendment be entered.

Applicants believe that no fees are due. However, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If the Examiner feels that a conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, Brian J. Gaffney stands willing to conduct such a telephone interview at the convenience of the Examiner. Mr. Gaffney may be reached at 214-953-6682.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Date: Nov. 17, 2006

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